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Middle school students prepare to match wits in BPA's regional science bowl

Students minds are kicked into high gear with questions like:

*You can always find the area of what quadrilateral when you are given only its perimeter? **

Bonneville Power Administration

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: THURSDAY, January 30, 1997

PR 2 97

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PORTLAND, Ore. — The Bonneville Power Administration is proving that the excitement of student competition isn't limited to the playing field. Local middle school students are preparing to compete with other students from Oregon in BPA's fifth-annual Middle School Science Bowl at the University of Portland Saturday, Feb. 22.

BPA spearheads these "Jeopardy" like bowls to ignite excitement in and generate interest among students in math, technology and science, said Derrol Johns, BPA's science bowl coordinator. It's always exciting to watch these kids move through the double-elimination style competition. They really get into it, and pressure builds to an intense final round.

This year, approximately 110 students from cities throughout the Willamette Valley will converge on the University of Portland campus to compete against one another. The 36 teams are comprised of four student competitors and one alternate.

The BPA science bowl program is closely modeled after the National Science Bowl competitions that were created by the Department of Energy (DOE) in 1991. In addition to the middle school science bowl, BPA also hosts the Regional High School Science Bowl - a larger event that will take place Saturday, March 8, and will involve students from both Oregon and Washington. The winning high school team from this sixth-annual event will go on to compete with other regional science bowl winners at DOE's National Science Bowl in Washington, D.C.

Like the DOE's National Science Bowl, BPA's regional science bowls also aim at garnering participation from women and minorities - two groups currently underrepresented in the fields of math, science, and technology.

* The answer to the question in the headline is: a square

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1997 Middle School Science Bowl Registered Teams

- Alki Middle School, Vancouver, WA
- Athey Creek Middle School, West Linn, OR (2 teams)
- Beaumont Middle School, Portland, OR
- Bolton Middle School, West Linn, OR
- Calapooia Middle School, Albany, OR
- Coffenberry Middle School, Myrtle Creek, OR (2 teams)
- Duniway Middle School, McMinnville, OR (2 teams)
- Estacada Jr. High School, Estacada, OR
- Floyd Light Middle School, Portland, OR (2 teams)
- Hosford Middle School, Portland, OR
- J.B. Thomas Jr. High School, Hillsboro, OR (2 teams)
- Kellogg Middle School, Portland, OR
- Lake Oswego Jr. High School, Lake Oswego, OR (2 teams)
- Mill City Middle School, Mill City, OR
- Neil Armstrong Middle School (MESA), Forest Grove, OR
- Northeast Portland Home School, Portland, OR (2 teams)
- Patton Middle School, McMinnville, OR
- Portsmouth Middle School, Portland, OR
- Poynter Jr. High School (MESA), Hillsboro, OR
- Scappoose Middle School, Scappoose, OR
- St. Clare School, Portland, OR (2 teams)
- Sutherlin Middle School, Sutherlin, OR (2 teams)
- The Madeline School, Portland, OR
- Valley Catholic Middle School, Beaverton, OR
- Washington Grade School, Vernonia, OR (2 teams)
- Whitford Middle School, Beaverton, OR (2 teams)
- Wood Middle School, Wilsonville, OR